

# Orchard Vale Trust

Supporting Adults with Learning Disabilities to Live Life to the Full



8<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Family and Friends,

A slightly belated Happy Easter to you and thank you for all the gifts and kind wishes. It has been lovely to welcome you back for visits and I am pleased to share some changes to our visiting arrangements, which will be in place from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

The key changes are that residents are now able to have 2 constant visitors for indoor visits with closer contact and these visitors are able to come separately or together. The safety guidance for indoor visits remains the same as before. In addition children and young people under the age of 18 are now able to visit. Please be aware that for any visit inside or outside there can only be 2 visitors and children over the age of 2 count as a visitor.

We have updated our guidance to reflect these changes and included it below:

## **Visiting**

Adults and young people of secondary school age wishing to have a visit are required to undertake a lateral flow test at the home that is being visited and receive a negative COVID-19 result.

## **Visits Inside**

- In line with government guidance there should be two constant visitors.
- Young people over the age of 2 can be nominated as one of the two constant indoor visitors.
- Children under the age of 2 are not counted as visitors but can be brought to visits.
- Children under the age of 2 should not be held or cuddled by the resident who is being visited or any staff who are supporting the visit.
- Only young people who are one of the 2 visitors can attend the residential home site, this includes young people not waiting in cars during the visit.
- Visits must be pre-arranged with the Home Manager or Deputy Manager in order to manage the number of visitors at a site safely.
- Visits will be for up to 1 hour (this does not include the 30 minutes testing time).

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- On arrival at the home all visitors, will be asked to complete a health questionnaire and have their temperature taken by a member of staff.
- Before a visit begins, adult visitors and young people of secondary school age will need to undertake a COVID-19 lateral flow test. The lateral flow test provides additional protection for everyone involved in the visit. Adult visitors will be asked for written consent to administer the test and children under the age of 16 will need the written consent of a parent or guardian and will need to be supported to administer the test by the adult they are visiting with.
- If the result of the test is positive, then the individual will have to leave the site and self-isolate immediately without the visit taking place. The home will provide a PCR test (this is the test which is administered at COVID-19 testing centres) which will need to be completed following the government guidance.
- A negative test will mean that the visit can take place inside, using the identified indoor visiting space for the home.
- Visitors will need to wear PPE which will be provided by the home and undertake appropriate hand hygiene.
- If a visitor is wearing PPE, has a negative COVID-19 test, as a result of the lateral flow test that has been administered at the home that day and has followed all other infection prevention and control measures required, then it should be possible for visitors to hold a loved one's hand.
- Close physical contact is important to everyone but even with PPE and a negative COVID-19 test, it does increase the risk of the transmission of infection. Visitors are asked to consider the balance between physical contact and limiting transmission. This will be different for everyone and visitors are encouraged to discuss this with the home manager before visiting.
- Family and friends will need to stay in the area identified for visits, under no circumstances should a visitor enter the home or any building other than the one identified for visits.
- In order to ensure that masks are worn throughout the visit, drinks and food cannot be consumed during the visit or in the area designated for visiting.
- For some visits additional protective equipment may be needed and the home manager will discuss this with visitors in advance.
- Anyone who is self-isolating as a result of having COVID-19 symptoms, living with someone with COVID-19 symptoms, or who has been asked to self-isolate by the Track and Trace team will not attend any meeting with a resident.
- People who are shielding should not attend any meeting with a resident.

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- Any gifts or items that family or friends wish to share should be given to the member of staff at the end of the visit so that these can meet the infection control requirements prior to entering a residential care home.
- If the home is experiencing an outbreak or a potential outbreak of COVID-19 then all visits will be suspended and re-arranged.
- Family and friends should follow the infection control guidance that staff follow. They should wear a fresh set of clothes as they leave their home and not to make any stops for fuel, shopping etc on the way to the visit.
- Young people should not attend a visit if they are coming straight from school or another supervised activity.

### Visits Outside

- Meetings will need to be arranged in advance with the home manager.
- The government guidance regarding the number of people who are permitted to meet outside is no more than two visitors at a time.
- Young people over the age of 2 can be one of the two visitors.
- Children under the age of 2 are not counted as visitors but can be brought to visits.
- Children under the age of 2 should not be held or cuddled by the resident who is being visited or any staff who are supporting the visit.
- Young people under the age of 16 should remain with the accompanying adult for the duration of the visit.
- Only young people who are one of the 2 visitors can attend.
- In order to ensure that visits are managed safely please keep to the timings agreed.
- On arrival at the home visitors will be asked to complete a health questionnaire and have their temperature taken by a member of staff.
- Before a visit begins, adult visitors and young people of secondary school age will need to undertake a COVID-19 lateral flow test. The lateral flow test provides additional protection for everyone involved in the visit. Adult visitors will be asked for written consent to administer the

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test and children under the age of 16 will need the written consent of a parent or guardian and will need to be supported to administer the test by the adult they are visiting with.

- If the result of the test is positive, then the individual will have to leave the site and self-isolate immediately without the visit taking place. The home will provide a PCR test (this is the test which is administered at COVID-19 testing centres) which will need to be completed following the government guidance.
- A negative test will mean that the visit can take place.
- The visit must remain in the grounds of the residential care home or at a local outside venue agreed with the home manager in advance.
- Meetings will be for no more than an hour to ensure that staffing and support levels at the homes are sustained (this does not include the 30-minute testing time).
- Staff, family and friends will be provided with a face mask, apron and gloves which they will need to wear throughout the visit, for some visits additional protective equipment may be needed and if the home manager will discuss this with visitors in advance.
- Anyone who is self-isolating as a result of having COVID-19 symptoms, living with someone with COVID-19 symptoms, or who has been asked to self-isolate by the NHS Track and Trace team will not attend any meeting with a resident.
- People who are shielding should not attend any meeting with a resident.
- Any gifts or items that family or friends wish to share should be given to the member of staff at the end of the visit so that these can meet the infection control requirements prior to entering a residential care home.
- If a new local or national lockdown is introduced, and the director of Public Health in the local area of the care home indicates that visits should not take place then the visit will need to be re-scheduled.
- Family and friends should follow the infection control guidance that staff follow. They should wear a fresh set of clothes as they leave their home and not to make any stops for fuel, shopping etc on the way to the visit.
- Young people should not attend a visit if they are coming straight from school or another supervised activity.

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I realise that there is a great deal of information being shared at the moment so as always if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the home manager or me.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Page". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

Liz Page  
Chief Executive Officer

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